Subsidy for export to pepper and cardamom'

2362. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give export subsidy for export of pepper and cardamom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons' therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal has been formulated for providing a WTO compatible subsidy with a view to cover cost of upgrading, internal transport and international freight in the export of pepper.

(c) Does not arise.

Request for cancellation of import licences of arecanut and cocoa

2363. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Associations have requested for cancellation of licences for importing arecanut and cocoa products; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India constituted an Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Rethinam, Former Chairman, Coconut Development Board. Considering the present trend of fall in prices, as well as the problems of arecanut farmers, as represented by various organizations, Government of India raised the import duty of arecanut from 35% to 100% to restrict import. Further instructions have been given to the customs officials to maintain vigil to prevent illegal entry of arecanut into the country.

Thus the Government is closely monitoring the imports and is committed to ensure through tariff and other measures that imports do not cause injury to the domestic farmers.

Agri-Export Zones

2364. SHRI THENNALA G.BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of project proposals received from State Governments for setting up of Agri-Export Zone for various items;

(b) the action taken by the Central Government on these proposals; and

(c) the details of the proposals which have been rejected and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.VK.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) 93 proposals have been received from State Governments for setting up of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs) for various items. Details of these proposals and action taken thereon are given below:

(i) 60 AEZs have been set up in various States. Details of the same are given below

State	Number of AEZs	Items covered
1	2	3
West Bengal	6	Pineapple, lychee, mango, potato, vegetables, Darjeeling tea
Karnataka	4	Gherkins, rose, onion, flowers, vanilla
Uttaranchal	4	Lychees, flowers, basmati rice, medicinal and aromatic plants
Punjab	3	Vegetables, potatoes, basmati rice
Uttar Pradesh	4	Potatoes, mangoes and vegetables, mangoes, basmati rice
Maharashtra	8	Grape and grapevine, mangoes, kesar mango, flowers, onion, pomegranate, banana, oranges